GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4318
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2003
INDEX FOR NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION
SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the index for National Agricultural Production (Anawari Report) was fixed alongwith details thereof;

(b) whether there has been any change in it; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): The Annawari method of crop estimation was used during the pre-independence period for assessing the production of crops based on eye-appraisal of the agricultural fields. Under this method, an assessment of 16 annas implied a normal production. An assessment of 12 annas meant the production was 75% of the normal production or that there was a loss of 25% in production.

(b)&(c): The Annawari method of assessment of production was based on subjective judgement and varied from location to location and from crop to crop. Due to the obvious deficiencies of this method, a need was felt for developing a methodology free from bias and subjectivity. Efforts were made by various statisticians and researchers to bring about improvements in the crop forecast system and to develop an objective methodology. These efforts involved crop cutting experiments for measuring yield in randomly selected fields and assessing the total production using statistical techniques. The initial works on such surveys started during 1940s and covered wheat and paddy crops on annual basis. However, gradually these surveys were extended to all the wheat and paddy growing States. A special feature of these surveys was that these were dovetailed into the existing administrative structure. Subsequently, the scope of these surveys was enlarged to cover other food and commercial crops. Presently, the production estimates of all principal foodgrain and oilseed crops as well as sugarcane, cotton, jute and mesta are prepared on the basis of the results of the crop cutting experiments under the General Crop Estimation Surveys.